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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Romanian Party Appears Set for National Conference

Yesterday's plenum of the central committee unanimously adopted the theses for the conference to be held in Bucharest 19-21 July. Ceausescu will present the theses to the conference, the second since he became party chief in March 1965. The last one, held in December 1967, adopted a set of directives intended to "perfect" the economy.

In many respects, this conference is an extension of the 1967 session. Domestic and external aspects of the economy promise to dominate the discussion. Part of the price Romania has had to pay in attempting to reduce its dependence on the Soviet Union is a large increase in its indebtedness to the Industrial West. Although some reports claim that this and other questions of economic policy have led to serious differences within the leadership, available evidence suggests that Ceausescu is in firm control. Events at the conference, however, should clearly indicate whether he has had to accept any major changes in economic policy.

Ceausescu can be expected to show his political skill, authority, and penchant for innovation at the meeting. If he performs as expected, organizational streamlining as well as several important personnel shifts in party and state agencies will take place. The changes will reflect not only continuation of his control of the apparatus but also his policy of "recycling" leaders between party and government positions. Indeed, Ceausescu set forth this outlook at a plenum of the central committee in April--"The comrades should go through different offices. In this way, leading cadres will take shape who are able to understand and solve the more and more complex problems raised by life and by the government of today's society."

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West Berlin Senat Playing It Cool

In light of acrimonious and unsuccessful exchanges with the GDR on the issue of immediate visits, the West Berlin Senat is downplaying the significance of local press reporting that the GDR is not complying with the spirit of the Quadripartite Agreement. These reports claim that the GDR is restrictively

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interpreting the Senat-GDR arrangement and is pressuring the East German population to avoid contacts with Westerners. A Senat representative told an Allied official that the press had merely taken note of Pankow's previously restrictive policies, which had not changed, on visits by western friends or relatives with government officials, military officials, party-cadre personnel, and other key officials. The GDR continues to be concerned about the potentially subversive effects of these contacts.

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Berlin Real Estate to Change Hands

Tomorrow the West Berlin Senat and the GDR will initial an agreement by which the Senat will purchase the 22 acre Potsdamer Bahnhof from the GDR for 31 million marks (about ten million dollars). The agreement is expected to be signed on Friday. This will be the first supplemental arrangement to the basic Senat-GDR agreement of last December, and will set the stage for further Senat proposals on the exchange of territory. The Senat hopes that these purchases will take some of the wrinkles out of the Wall. Agreement was possible after the GDR negotiators conceded to Western demands that the Quadripartite Agreement be specifically mentioned in the preamble and that the sector borders not be represented as state borders.

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